



Meeting Summary

Membership Meeting

Thursday July 27, 2006

Drake Conference Center

151 West Galbraith Road

Conference Room E

6:00 PM–8:00 PM

PARTICIPANTS: Chuck Kamine, Amberley Village
Tom Moeller, Madeira
Richard Ellison, Elmwood Place
Chris Gilbert, Springfield Township
Gerri Harbison, Montgomery
Jenny Kilgore, Glendale
Susan Roschke, Colerain Township
Peggy Brickweg, St. Bernard
Bill Scheyer, Erlanger KY
David Moore, Greenhills
Chris Anderson, Forest Park
Alan Zaffiro, Golf Manor

Andy Dobson, HCRPC
Ron Miller, HCRPC
Kimberly Gibson, MORPC
Laurie Housemeyer, SyncRoots, Inc.
Michael Lanin, SyncRoots, Inc.
Bob Richardson, KZF Design

AGENDA ITEMS: Purpose

- To present SyncRoots services and discuss how FSC-SW might be able to use them for greater online collaboration
- To update our membership about statewide first suburbs issues, what Ohio First Suburbs Consortium has been doing, and how FSC-SW can benefit from and support these efforts
- To update our membership about a Land Bank Legislative Proposal aimed at improving statutes governing land bank use and operation in Ohio communities

Administrative Items

1. Approval of April 27, 2006 Meeting Minutes
2. Appoint representative to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy oversight committee

Project Items

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3. SyncRoots Presentation: collaborative online software in use by Erlanger, KY
 4. Kimberly Gibson: update and discussion of statewide First Suburbs efforts
 - a. eminent domain task force
 - b. budget priorities
 - c. policy goals
 5. FSC-SW Land Bank Legislative Proposal: presentation and discussion
 - a. What current land bank legislation allows us to do
 - b. What FSC-SW proposes to improve and why
 6. Other Business

Call to Action

Steps member communities can take until our next meeting

DISCUSSION:
(conclusions and
decisions)

Agenda Item 1

MOTION: Kilgore

SECOND: Moeller

Meeting summary notes approved unanimously

Agenda Item 2

Jack Cameron from Evendale was appointed the FSC-SW representative to the Hamilton County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy oversight committee. Tom Moeller and Chris Gilbert said that their communities are also represented on this committee.

(following agenda items were heard out of order)

Agenda Item 4

Kimberly Gibson, from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Ohio First Suburbs Consortium discussed a variety of statewide issues related to first suburbs. The oldest consortium in Cleveland is now 10 years old, and statewide first suburb issues have generated a lot of interest among academics and leaders. The various consortia have built their strength and name recognition over this time as well.

One year ago, the OFSC policy agenda was rolled out with a press conference at the state capitol. Progress on this agenda includes state historic tax credits for building renovation, renewal of the local government fund, new laws regarding predatory lending, and testimony to the eminent domain working committee.

In November a new governor and general assembly will be elected. The state budgetary and ODOT budget process is underway. In light of these events, now is the time to review and revise our policy agenda and to determine new priorities. A conference call is scheduled for Thursday August 3 at 2:00 in the afternoon among various first suburbs leaders to discuss these changes. Also, Kim is planning a November "lobby day" for first suburbs leadership to meet and get important issues to policy makers shortly after the elections. Chuck encouraged

our membership to participate.

There will also be a Gubernatorial event in Columbus sponsored by MPOs that is another opportunity to put first suburbs questions directly to candidates. This is scheduled for August 21.

The recent eminent domain lawsuit decision in Norwood throws into question many other redevelopment projects across the state. First suburbs has been watching this case closely because eminent domain is an important tool communities can use to redevelop decaying areas. The eminent domain review committee is due to release its final report in the next week or so.

Agenda Item 5

Chris Gilbert presented an analysis of ORC 5722 (Land Reutilization Programs) and HB 294 (see attachment). The Executive Committee asked Chris to prepare these reviews to highlight what works and what doesn't work with current land bank legislation. Any added some additional goals and discussion to Chris' analysis to create an outline for a legislative proposal.

There was general discussion regarding when FSC-SW could propose a new bill to improve land bank laws. Kimberly recommended that we start soon since the General Assembly is not busy right now but will be as the election season heats up. Chuck raised a question of if this topic will be unpopular among lawmakers because of the recent eminent domain ruling. The general consensus was that there should not be reluctance because land banking deals with properties that have been foreclosed for delinquent taxes. A property owner has abandoned responsible ownership when they stop paying taxes which is a different situation entirely from a community exercising eminent domain powers.

Agenda Item 3

Laurie Housemeyer and Michael Lanin from SyncRoots, and Bill Schyer from Erlanger gave a presentation of the Connect Erlanger project. SyncRoots provides a variety of internet-based tools and services geared toward increasing community engagement and democratic participation by citizens. The company offers a package of online tools including websites, discussion boards, e-mail, calendars, and file servers to it's clients. These tools are then used with a process of identifying information, people, services, and networks within a community and tying them together to increase social capital.

The most active client in the area is the City of Erlanger, KY. The Connect Erlanger system has been active since May and includes 400 participating members. The idea for this kind of system grew out of the Erlanger Vision 2015 plan process. Connect Erlanger is a pilot project and they are introducing new features slowly as they work out problems in the system and learn the best way to implement new ideas.

There was some discussion of how SyncRoots products could be used to allow different FSC "chapters" to more easily communicate and share information and resources across the state.

Agenda Item 6

Tom Moeller mentioned that Leadership Cincinnati is considering first suburbs issues for future training session topics and they are looking for ideas. This is another opportunity to get FSC agenda out there through training sessions for LC members.

NEXT MEETINGS: Executive Committee
August 14, 2006
Amberley Village Administration Building
8:30 AM–10:00 AM

Membership Meeting
October 26, 2006
Drake Conference Center
6:00 PM–8:00 PM
